

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6219

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORT, PFOR, DR

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: DOMINICAN ORGANIZATION AND OBJECTIVES

REF: STATE 37591

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 7 REFTEL ARE:

A. DR IS ENJOYING POLITICAL TRANQUILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND LOOKS TO MULTILATERAL RELATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LATTER WITHOUT DISTURBING THE FORMER. CONSCIOUS OF ITS PROXIMITY TO AND DEPENDENCE UPON THE US, THE GODR IS SEEKING WAYS TO MAXIMIZE INCOME FROM RAW MATERIALS THROUGH ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER PRODUCERS AND IS INTERESTED IN BROADENING ITS REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES THROUGH EXPANDING CONTACT WITH ITS NEIGHBORS WITHOUT HARMING ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE DR IS A MEMBER OF SELA AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE (IBA), BANANA (UPEB) AND SUGAR (GEPLACEA) ASSOCIATIONS. IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS THE GODR IS CAREFUL, AS IT IS IN THE UN FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND IN THE OAS, TO AVOID ALIGNING ITSELF AGAINST THE US ON CONFRONTATIONAL ISSUES. IT DOES, HOWEVER, SEEK TO AVOID ISOLATION FROM LATIN AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD NATIONS WHEN GREAT MAJORITIES ARE VOTING AGAINST THE US. ITS GENERAL POLICY IS TO ABSTAIN ON SUCH ISSUES. DR'S IS A VOICE OF MODERATION IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS AND ITS VOTING RECORD AS SEEN FROM US IS AMONG THE BEST. DR IS OFTEN AVAILABLE AS COSPONSOR OF RESOLUTIONS OF INTEREST TO US. THE GODR
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OCCASIONALLY REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR DOMINICAN CANDIDATES FOR

OAS AND UN POSITIONS AND IN VIEW OF ITS COOPERATIVE SPIRIT
WE HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING WITH SUPPORT.

B. STRONGEST INFLUENCE ON DR MULTILATERAL POLICY-MAKING
IS USG. DR TRIES TO ACCOMMODATE US ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE.
AS NOTED ABOVE, HOWEVER, DR IS RELUCTANT TO TAKE
A POSITION WHICH PLACES IT CONSPICUOUSLY AGAINST THE LA
MAINSTREAM. IT THEREFORE SOMETIMES ABSTAINS ON - MORE RARELY
VOTES AGAINST - ISSUES WHICH FIND US UNUSUALLY ISOLATED
FROM LATINS. DR RARELY SEEKS TO INFLUENCE OTHER COUNTRIES
IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

C. DR DELEGATIONS ARE USUALLY INSTRUCTED, BUT RETAIN A
MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY TO BE USED IF LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES
WARRANT, E.G., TO AVOID ISOLATION AT SIDE OF US. GODR
ORDINARILY RETAINS CONTROL OVER ITS DELEGATIONS THOUGH ON
OCCASION DELEGATES MAY ACT INDEPENDENTLY. GODR USUALLY
CONSULTS WITH THIS EMBASSY IN ADVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
MEETINGS ON SIGNIFICANT MATTERS AND THESE CONSULTATIONS
USUALLY RESULT IN INSTRUCTIONS OR GUIDELINES. FEEDBACK TO
THE FONOFF APPEARS ADEQUATE.

D. NO. THE HEAD OF THE DOMINICAN DELEGATION TO THE UN
BELONGS TO AN OPPOSITION PARTY (SOCIAL CHRISTIANS), BUT
THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY OVER THE
DELEGATION.

E. GODR IS ALWAYS ANXIOUS TO KNOW HOW THE US VIEWS UPCOMING
ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND IS NORMALLY RECEPTIVE
TO OUR CONCERNS. CONSULTATIONS ARE CONSIDERED A NORMAL
PART OF OUR RELATIONS. THE GODR OCCASIONALLY REQUESTS
SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEES OR COMMISSIONS,
BUT RARELY MAKES OVERTURES TO THE US ON ISSUES.
HURWITCH

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